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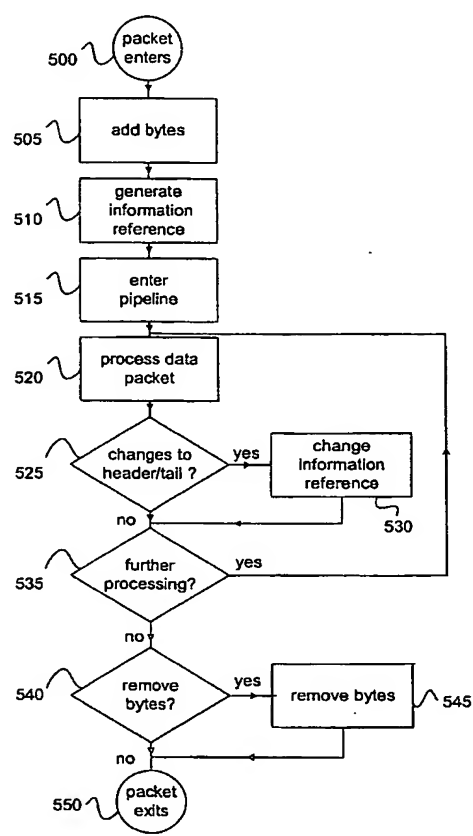
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(54) Title: **METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR PROCESSING DATA**



(57) Abstract: The present invention relates to a method and apparatus for pipelined processing of data. When a data packet containing information is received by a processor operating according to pipelined processing, bits are added to the data packet and an intermediate packet, comprising more bits than the received data packet, is generated. To the intermediate packet is associated information reference, the information reference comprising information regarding the length and position of the information in the intermediate packet. As the intermediate packet is processed, changes to the intermediate packet resulting in changes of the length or the position of the information in the intermediate packet will trigger changes of the information reference. When the intermediate packet exits the processor, superfluous bits are removed.

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